

2017-92nd Legislative Session

SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE

AGENDA



Governing Principles

- We are opposed to any state income tax. The absence of a state income tax gives South Dakota an advantage in business attraction, expansion, and retention.
- We are opposed to property tax legislation that disproportionately shifts the burden to commercial property.
- We support legislation that will enhance video lottery and allow South Dakota video lottery establishments to compete more effectively with gaming in neighboring states.
- We support economically-sustainable energy development.
- We support appropriate funding for K-12 and higher education, including technical institutes.
- We support the personal property rights of South Dakota employers.



Legislative Priorities

Workforce Development

We support initiatives that will provide the South Dakota workforce (both existing and future) with the skill sets required by the companies that will provide South Dakota a strong economic base. We also support the continuation of public/private partnerships in an effort to actively recruit and/or train a skilled workforce to the area.

Education

With the growing demand for a skilled workforce, we support the promotion of workforce training initiatives and the technical trades as early as middle school and throughout secondary school. We also support competitive high-quality education in South Dakota and local control of school districts.

Housing

In order to attract skilled workers to South Dakota and support job growth, we encourage the State to continue to participate in the development of affordable workforce housing, both single-family homes and multi-family homes. Without local and state financial support, projects like these are less attractive investments for developers to undertake.

Future Fund

We support maintaining the flexibility of the Future Fund as it is an important economic development tool that the Governor can use in projects that expand the employment base in South Dakota.

REDI Fund

We support legislation that enhances or improves the flexibility of the REDI Fund as an economic development tool to meet the demands of the global business environment including technology-based businesses.

Economic Development

We support ongoing efforts to enhance growth and limit the impact of the contractors' excise tax and sales/use tax on new construction on South Dakota businesses. In addition, we urge the legislature to clarify the guidelines for payment of the excise tax for existing business' expansions. We support the ongoing implementation and funding of the economic development funds including: the Building South Dakota Fund, Economic Development Partnership Program, the Reinvestment Payment Program, South Dakota Jobs Grant Program, and the Local Infrastructure Assistance Program.

Transportation

Transportation systems are significant components of economic development. Maintaining the state's infrastructure is critical. Continuing to fund the state transportation fund should be a priority. Even though the legislature passed significant increases to the transportation fund in 2015, the needs still exceed the funding. In addition, the State needs to participate in the transportation needs of counties and townships.

Unemployment Insurance

It is critical to have a solvent unemployment insurance fund in the state, while maintaining the most stringent guidelines allowable by State and Federal law.

Healthcare

We support expanded access to healthcare insurance in the state of South Dakota.